

# SPARTAN DAILY

Wednesday

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Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

## I got your grade right here

(Right) Vagish Kapila (with pie in hand), an electrical engineering student, "pies" Jack Kurzweil, a professor in the same department, Tuesday in front of the Engineering building. The fund-raiser, sponsored by Tau Beta Pi and the Society of Women Engineers, a national organization founded about 50 years ago, will continue at various times throughout the week.

(Below) Helen Sitter throws a whipped cream pie at her son-in-law, Jim Freeman, outside the Engineering building during Tuesday's pie throwing contest hosted by the Engineering department.

For more pie throwing fun check out the story in Thursday's Spartan Daily



Franchesca Esquivel/Spartan Daily



Aimee Santos/Spartan Daily

## Five students hit with petty theft charge

By Brandy Sailors  
Staff Writer

Five San Jose State University students have been charged by the district attorney with petty theft. A pretrial conference date has been set for May 6. Charges were related to a January incident in the Spartan Bookstore.

The pretrial conference is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., in department 51 at the San Jose Facility Courthouse, with Judge Neal Cabrinha tentatively scheduled to preside.

The student who was the main focus of the investigation has not been arrested or charged as of yet, but he was cited in January for embezzlement, according to University Police Department records.

Cesar Venegas, a former

employee of the bookstore, was cited and released on Jan. 28 for allegedly discounting and giving away approximately \$400 worth of merchandise. According to bookstore representatives, he was fired on Jan. 29.

At least four others were arrested for possession of stolen property, and one other was arrested for conspiracy and possession of stolen property, according to UPD.

Jose Zarate, Valentin Garcia, Hau Nguyen and Alfonso Gonzalez were all arrested and charged with possession of stolen property.

Cecilia Sobalvarro was the one arrested and charged with conspiracy and possession of stolen property although conspiracy charges will not be filed according

See Theft, page 5

## Explosion victim in stable condition

By Sandra Avila  
Senior Staff Writer

Graduate student Nga Nguyen, who was hospitalized after a classroom explosion on April 7, is in stable condition at Valley Medical Center in San Jose.

As a result of an experiment gone wrong, which caused an explosion in the basement lab of Duncan Hall, four female students were rushed to the hospital and treated for chemical exposure and cuts.

Three students with minor cuts were released from the hospital the same day, but Nguyen sustained third degree burns from

the splattering of nitric acid, and she was admitted to the burn unit at Valley Medical Center.

A third degree burn is a serious condition, according to Robert J. Latta, director for the Student Health Center at San Jose State University.

"Third degree burn means the burn went all the way through the skin and destroyed the tissue," he said.

Latta said the nitric acid will continue to burn the skin tissues if it is not washed off immediately.

"If a full layer of skin is lost, infection becomes a problem," Latta said.

See Victim, page 6

## San Jose State University dorm life: Home sweet home

### Burning pot, dope or marijuana done covertly in dorms

By Cindy Arora  
Staff Writer

Editor's note: Dorm life can be the greatest time of your life, or a complete disaster. Over the next few days, the Spartan Daily will finish its look at life on campus. Today — smoking pot in the dorms.

Mary Jane is never allowed in the residence halls.

Sometimes, she's snuck in or smuggled in under a jacket, but you always know she's there because she smells.

Mary Jane isn't a student, it's a slang word known for marijuana.

According to many residents at San Jose State University's residence halls, marijuana is a part of the dorm life just as roommates are.

Markham hall resident Gabrielle Pecos said smoking pot in the dorms is a part of the college experience.

"I would say that it's part of the dorm life because it's always around. There is a party atmosphere in the dorms because there are no parents here," Pecos said.

Hoover Hall resident Akbar Shetti said smoking pot in the dorms isn't as apparent as it was last year, but it's still happening.

"Last semester, people just used to sit in front of the buildings on a bench and smoke there. This semester, it's almost nonexistent," Shetti said.

Former Allen Hall resident

Priscilla Cancino said she and her roommate used to smoke pot in their dorm room every day, and they never worried about getting caught.

"We would just burn incense, put a towel under the crack of the door and not worry about it," Cancino said.

According to freshman Armand Ceniza, smoking pot and drinking are just two ways to live it up after moving away from home.

Ceniza said during his first semester at the dorms he saw a lot of other residents smoking pot in their rooms and partying. This semester, he said, it's not happening as much because residents are scared of getting caught.

"It used to happen a lot, but people are afraid of getting caught because they can't hide the smell," Ceniza said.

The penalties for getting caught smoking or possessing pot varies at the resident director's discretion and the University Police Department.

According to Sgt. John Hernandez, UPD is notified if there is a suspicious smell coming from one of the rooms. There are guidelines UPD must follow that makes getting into the room where the smell is coming from difficult, Hernandez said.

"A dorm room is treated like a home. We are not allowed in unless a resident approves it," Hernandez said.

In addition to being permitted into the room, Hernandez said most students are smart about hiding the evidence before UPD can find it.

"Students know that if they get rid of the evidence, we can't do



anything about it. UPD is called to collect it, and it becomes criminal if it's actually found and someone admits to it," Hernandez said.

Those who are caught with marijuana are penalized with a citation classified as a misdemeanor but cannot result in jail time. In addition, Hernandez said the fine is \$100, and the judge has the option to raise or lower the fee.

The record of the misdemeanor is removed from the cited individual after 2 years.

According to Hernandez, for the year of 1998, there were 20 calls from the residence halls that were related to marijuana. Of the 20, six reports were taken and four resulted in citations.

In addition to citations, there were four arrests. One in Joe

See Pot, page 5

## Students practice for 'The Big One'

By Tricia Herrera  
Staff Writer

Throughout campus, thousands of students and faculty poured out of buildings and into the sunshine during an evacuation drill Tuesday morning.

In observation of California Earthquake Preparedness month, San Jose State University held its annual all-university building evacuation exercise.

For nine years, SJSU has held the practice drill — initiated by Richard Staley, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator — after the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989.

According to Staley, an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 people simultaneously left the buildings.

The goals of the evacuation were to train team members and educate university students and faculty on what to do in an

emergency.

Each building has emergency team members who are responsible for sweeping a building for people. Team members wear orange vests, and in the event of a real emergency, they look for casualties, disabled persons who need assistance and report any type of damage.

As the alarms sounded Tuesday, emergency team members went to work making sure

See Practice, page 6



Sean Penello/Spartan Daily

Associate professor Kenneth Peter continues to lecture outside to his modern political thought class Tuesday during the campuswide earthquake drill in observation of California Earthquake Preparedness Month.

### INSIDE THE DAILY



### SPORTS

Spartan Softball splits pair with Santa Clara — Page 4



### NEWS

Two new bills aimed at students head to legislature — Page 6

### ENTERTAINMENT

Is animal testing necessary? Is PETA a bunch of wackos? — Page 2





# COUNTERPOINT POINT

Animal rights activists have used many tactics, including releasing lab animals and blocking fishing vessels, many of which are seen as radical by many. Are these efforts valid or too extreme?

## Animal rights activists too radical, needs much more balanced tactics



Aaron Williams

Let's get one thing straight — I love animals. They taste great. Nothing is more satisfying than a nice juicy, steak, a piece of barbecued chicken or a spicy sausage. Nothing.

No little nugget of information from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)

will make me think otherwise.

In fact, I happen to think PETA is one of the silliest organizations around. I don't necessarily think the members of PETA are wrong, it's just that they go about things the wrong way.

In its defense, I will say that I do agree with the PETA stance on zoos and circuses. I don't think zoos and circuses are unnecessarily cruel to animals. I think they are the ultimate example of man's grandiosity.

A friend of mine suggested there should be a giant place where humans can go to view animals. They do, it's called the wild. Don't try and convince me that a polar bear in the San Francisco zoo is acceptable. It's not, it is just plain wrong.

That being said, I disagree with just about everything else animal rights activists stand for. The issue of animal testing for experimental drugs, which could wipe out disease is a no-brainer. Inject one of about 40 billion lab rats with an experimental drug, or let AIDS and cancer rage on? Hmmm, tough choice.

Watching a loved one slowly, painfully disintegrate because of an incurable disease is pure torture. If a cure can be found by testing on laboratory animals — which can reproduce every 30 minutes or so — I say do it.

I have seen my mother go through a battle with cancer, my grandmother die from cancer and one of my best friends watch his 2-year-old son die from an incurable neurological disease. I would have given all the rats, cats and bats in the world up for scientific testing to avoid seeing the anguish these diseases caused.

Instead of pointing out to me that I should break the six pack rings up before putting it in the plastic recycling pile, why doesn't PETA design an animal-safe fully-recyclable method to hold six packs?

I found it absurd when PETA condemned the makers of Yoplait yogurt for its non animal-friendly shape of its containers. Apparently, an increasing number of skunks have found their way into landfills, decided that yogurt was on the menu and have died after getting their heads stuck in the narrow, tapered containers.

Change the design for a freaking skunk? Skunks are the pariah of the animal kingdom. Hell, most people would rather smell a room full of farts than face that all too familiar smell driving down the country road.

My point of all this madness?

There needs to be a delicate balance between the needs of mankind and the benevolence of humans. Testing potential cures on animals with birth rates in the millions is not a bad thing. Testing hairspray by dousing a chimpanzee's eyes is a bad thing. I do agree that man has a tendency to go overboard — sometimes way overboard — when abusing its evolutionary power over other animals.

But then again, if animals really don't like being guinea pigs, they'll evolve. Oh, by the way I like my steaks medium well. Mmmmm.

Aaron Williams is a Spartan Daily editor.



## Respect for all forms of life part of evolving as human beings

Margaret Bethel



When making the decision whether to treat animals ethically actually becomes a moral dilemma for you, that urge you have to kick your dog is the least of your problems.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is a valid organization that aims to protect innocent animals from the cruelties of humans.

It's not controversial.

It's not a religious or politically-based group with a biased slant to the left or the right.

It's a group that calls on the compassion of people to maintain ethical standards when dealing with animals.

When a majority of us lack this compassion, it not only puts animals at risk, but it endangers the progress of our own evolution. Opponents of PETA often manipulate Darwinian ideology to bolster a pathetic argument that just barely masks their true macho nature.

Claiming "survival of the fittest" as a good reason to farm thousands of minks, bash them in the head, skin them and then wrap yourself in their fur to symbolize your status in society distorts the theory.

Distorted or not, it's the mantra of the socially immature.

Yes, our human bodies have evolved to reach incredible potential, but the evolution of our minds and spirits is ongoing.

Those who hurt animals or oppose plans to protect them are simply lower on the chain of evolution because their minds and spirits have not yet realized respect for living creatures beyond their egotistical world.

Almost as bad as ignoring the plight of animals is mocking those who do their part to ensure an animal's well-being.

Because seals, birds and other wildlife can get tangled and eventually die from plastic six-pack holders, I make sure to cut them up before I throw them in the trash.

And because that's not the norm, people struggling with their own evolution find it fun to mock me.

People who don't take PETA seriously and call it a radical group are not unlike critics of "those women-libbers" of a generation ago. They feel threatened. They want to demean the issue in order to boost their superiority complex.

When "Dateline" aired its report on animals being tortured and slaughtered in Asia to produce clothes and toys that are exported to the United States, viewers were horrified.

Sadly, this report detailed just one horrific crime committed against animals, when there are thousands more that most people will never know about.

Granted, most people are opposed to blatant atrocities against animals, such as the crimes in Asia, poaching a two-ton elephant for the novelty of its tusks, forcing tigers to jump through hoops of fire and calling it entertainment and animal testing for cosmetics.

Without PETA, many hostile acts against animals would never be known, and therefore eventually stopped.

Margaret Bethel is a Spartan Daily editor.

## Talking Heads Is testing on animals for medicinal purposes ethical?



"No, I'm an animal lover. I make sure that all the products that I buy, like lipstick, are not even made from animals. You can test on other things. Pay someone \$50 and test on him."

— Amanda Babb  
junior  
liberal studies



"I used to work for a company that did animal testing but I left it because I didn't like it. I guess it's OK, as long as (the animals) are not hurt terribly or abused."

— Hollis O'Brien  
junior  
business



"I'm a big animal lover, so I say no. But I think it's good for cancer and AIDS testing."

— Michelle Marcelli  
junior  
behavioral science



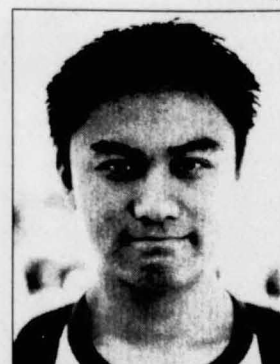
"I think animal testing is ethical as long as the animals are considered rodents and as long as they don't have too much value for the ecosystem. Nothing like monkeys."

— Rafael Chavez  
senior  
occupational therapy



"No, it is not ethical because animals are treated badly and inhumanly. The experiments cause them to suffer and die."

— Mary Langstaff-Pareja  
senior  
English literature



"No, animals are just like humans. They have souls. They want to live and survive. How would you like your relatives put in cells and have experiments done to them?"

— Tim Li  
sophomore  
computer engineering

Compiled by Franklin Leiva and photos by Sean Penello.



## Davis doesn't have to steal toilet paper

Gray Davis is either drunk or talking out of his ass. I hope he is inebriated, because at least then we would have something in common.

It seems our California governor intends to make community service a graduation requirement for all community, state and California universities.

He wants his campaign proposal of students spending at least 30 hours in community service to graduate to become a reality.

Reality is the key word here.

Or rather, a reality check.

Davis needs one.

Davis feels today's generation has not fully appreciated what they have inherited from the World War II generation.

"One of the ethics of the World War II generation was a sense of obligation to the future and appreciation for what they inherited," Davis said in a press conference to highlight his achievements during the first 100 days in office.

Who are you to speak on my generation, old man?

It is exactly what we have inherited that makes this idea so preposterous. Let's look at what our ethical, appreciative and obligative World War II generation has given us.

Well, Pete Wilson has cut school funding. Ronald Reagan cut mental institution funding.

The result?

Students of my unethical, unappreciative and obligation-absent generation now not only have to deal with the effects of going to an underfunded school that is surrounded by halfway houses, we also have to pay to do community service.

I think my generation is proud of what we inherited. I know there are others like me who are proud to live in a run-down apartment while forking over more than \$1,000 while paying the same amount in tuition.

We are also proud to work 30 to 40 hours a week to live a subsistence lifestyle nourished by tuna, rice, Spam and top ramen — sai-men for Hawaiian Japanese-Americans.

I am also appreciative of having to steal toilet paper on campus. Hey, if I was female, I would be the tampon snatcher at SJSU.

I take pride in washing my clothes while I take a shower and hanging out with the bums on my street to ask for spare change.



LAST OF  
THE  
MOH'RICANS'  
Jon Perez

I don't feel community service is necessary for students.

But since I feel Davis is talking out of his ass and community service is in our immediate future, I have one request for Davis.

Leave the "Spartan Daily" staff alone.

They have more than done their share of volunteer work. No, it is not the 60 hours a

week they spend here or their Monday through Sunday schedule.

They have taken care of the "Mooch."

As the Last of the Moh'ricans, I don't have a lot, but I do know how to beg.

I have no shame.

Hey, I asked Caret to go masturbate with me at The Pink Poodle.

My staff has to face my everyday antics of asking for food, drinks and an occasional — yeah right, it is more like daily — beer here and there.

It has gotten to the point where they have to sneak off privately when they go to Burger King and Jamba Juice.

When I walk in, sounds of feet and opening and closing of desk drawers can be heard.

They spray air freshener to hide the smell of food. They have to think of excuses and cut through my third-rate charm in my quest to get a free meal.

"What about the Mooch?" is my motto.

My staff has spent countless hours doing community service because I wake up with an empty stomach and have a full one at the end of the day.

So Davis, spare them and be appreciative that the only person who says your full of it is someone who can't afford to buy any food.

Be appreciative that you don't have to worry about how you are going to eat the next day while you sit back in your governor's chair — that my taxes you pay for — and tell me that I have to give back to the community.

I always tell my staff — when I am not asking them for money or food — that I would never tell them to do something that I would not do.

You do some community service. What? You don't have any time?

Oh, I see. I guess the World War II generation isn't all it is cracked up to be.

Jon Perez is the Spartan Daily executive editor "Last of the Moh'ricans" appears every Wednesday.

### Opinion page policies

Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a Letter to the Editor.

A Letter to the Editor is a 200-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily. Submissions become the property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length.

Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions may be put in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily Office in Dwight Bentel Hall Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at SDAILY@jmc.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

Editorials are written by, and are the consensus of, the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.

## SPARTAN DAILY

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### Today

#### Leadership Workshops

Workshop on "Being Able to Motivate Yourself and Others" from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in the Almaden Room, Student Union. For more information, call the Student Life Center at 924-5950.

#### Association of Black Scientists

General meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Duncan Hall, room 505. For more information, call Tre at 924-8280.

#### Environmental Studies Career Panel

Panel will be held at 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room, Student Union. For more information, call the Career Resource Center at 924-6033.

#### Golden Key National Honor Society

Interview workshop and Book Fair from noon to 1 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room, Student Union. For more information, call Stacie Haro at (831) 427-6213.

#### Student Art Exhibits

The School of Art and Design will present student art from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Industrial Science buildings. For more information, call Scott or Jenny at 924-4330.

#### Student Housing Focus Group Feedback Discussions

International Relations Association will host a focus group from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Student Union. For more information, call Evelyn Ramos at 291-0646.

#### Asian Baptist Student Koinonia

Bible study from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room,

## Sparta Guide

Student Union. For more information, call Ki Kim at 313-4298.

#### Spartan Psychological Association Research Colloquium

Psi Chi and the Psychological Society will sponsor the colloquium from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Dudley Moorhead Hall, room 353. Also held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday. For more information, call Brenda Gummesson at 979-0456.

#### Free Movie

Sigma Alpha Mu will screen Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange" at 8 p.m. in the old science building, room 142. Everyone welcome. For more information, call Tim at 924-3274.

#### Day at the Capitol

The political science department will travel to the capitol. Departure will be at 6:30 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. Interested students should meet at the business tower loading zone. Cost is \$12. For more information, call Gloria at 924-5550.

#### Free Munchies for Late Afternoon and Evening Commuter Students

The Student Life Center will provide free munchies from 4 to 5:45 p.m. in the University Room. For more information, call Jane Boyd at 924-5950.

#### Test Taking Techniques Workshop

The Re-Entry Advisory Program will hold the workshop from noon to 1:15 p.m. in the Pacheco Room, Student Union. For more information, call Jane Boyd at 924-5950.

#### Body Composition Testing

The nutrition and food science

department will provide bioelectrical impedance testing from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the central classroom building, room 103. Cost is \$5 for students, faculty and staff. For more information, call James Burke at 293-9225.

### Thursday

#### Student Art Exhibits

The School of Art and Design will present student art from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Industrial Science buildings. For more information, call Scott or Jenny at 924-4330.

#### The Listening Hour

San Jose State Latin Jazz Ensemble will perform from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the Music building Concert Hall. For more information, call Joan Stubbe at 924-4631.

### Friday

#### Stress, Health and Wellness Workshops

Counseling Services will hold workshops from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Administration building, room 269. For more information, call Denise Hadley at 924-5019 or Jill Steinbert at 924-5910.

### Saturday

#### Ballroom Dance Club Ball

The Spring Ball will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Spartan Complex, room 89. Admission is \$5 or \$3 with a Ballroom Dance Club membership card. For more information, call Carmen at 924-SPIN.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff. The deadline for entries is noon, three days before desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily Office. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions.

## LETTERS

## Alcohol not a real good time

The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Committee would like to respond to the article "Beer + \$ = College Education," that appeared in the March 9 issue of the Spartan Daily.

You correctly stated that students spend a lot of money on alcohol. The Office of Substance Abuse Prevention reports a student will spend more money for alcohol than textbooks, approximately \$446 per student and \$5.5 billion yearly. San Jose State University survey results show that 40 per-

cent of students choose not to drink — which is below the national average — and save money.

We don't agree that beer is the center and epitome of college students' lives. A portion of SJSU students choose to engage in other fun activities where alcohol is not the main focus.

Josh Kuhl spent \$40 on beer, doesn't remember any of it, or if he had fun or how much he spent. Was he more attractive when he was drunk?

He wasted his money. Most col-

lege students could have lots of fun for \$40 and still remember the good times they had.

"Beer, Booze and Books" states that college students are the targets of beer advertising and sales, with \$1.5 billion spent annually. If you choose to drink, make responsible decisions.

You want to remember the fun and good times, right?

SJSU Alcohol and Drug Prevention Committee

## Automatic fees drain budgets

Congratulations to Shane Lewis for an article that exposes the reality of living on campus! As stated in the article "Home Sweet Home," which appeared in the April 7 issue of the Spartan Daily, most of the cost of living on campus is due to the mandatory meal plans residents are forced to purchase.

I made the mistake of purchasing the 19-meal plan. This is truly the largest rip-off of all the options. If I miss a meal, I don't get a refund.

There is also the issue of the allotted amount for the Student Union and Marketplace Cafe. One

is allowed one "swipe" per meal time.

If a decided to have a latte with my chicken strips, I'm out of luck.

In addition to the "meal plan scam," there are costs that all students must pay that are superfluous. For example, the transit fee. I didn't vote for this fee, so why should I pay for it?

Sounds like taxations without representation to me.

I do not use the transit system in San Jose because I have a car — for which I pay a parking fee. The students who actually use the system don't have to pay for my transportation, so why should I

pay for theirs?

Does the university get kickbacks from the Valley Transit Authority?

Yet another fee students should take note of on their billing statements is the child development fee.

I love kids, and the fee is nominal (\$3), however this is still another case of the university doing what they want with our hard-earned money.

Steve Junor  
mechanical engineering

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# One 'Van'tastic tennis player

Winning attitude key to Helen Van's success on court

By Ryan McCrossin  
Staff Writer

As Helen Van, a freshman tennis player, walks onto the court with her tightly braided pony tail patting her on the back, her dark brown eyes scan menacingly back and forth beneath the rim of her snugly fitting baseball cap.

Let the fight begin, her look seems to say.

The first ball is thrown into the air and the competition begins. Her eyes focus and lock on the ball as she slowly cocks her racket back. When she smacks the ball she yells "Ay," and as the ball is sent soaring across the net, a brief smirk takes shape on her face. "Ay, Ay, Ay."

"Her biggest strength is her attitude," said Anh-Dao Nguyen, the San Jose State University tennis coach. "When she gets out on the court she is very business-like. She's not out there to be your friend, she's out there to kick your butt."

Van possesses the classic winning mentality: She is competitive and she will do almost anything to win. Her record is a reflection of this attitude. She has compiled an impressive 13-7 record in No. 4 and No. 5 singles.

Last year, Van played for Mission San Jose High School in Fremont. She won the Mission Valley Athletic League

Tournament as a sophomore and as a junior, and she placed fourth in the North Coast Sectional Tournament her last two years.

"I hope she'll play No. 1 for us someday, she has the potential to do so," Nguyen said.

Although Van easily knocks out most of her opponents with her tough play, it is in those tight matches that her competitive spirit emerges.

In a match against Northern Arizona's Sylvana Navarro on April 1, Helen danced like a butterfly and stung like a bee to win a 6-2 first set, but lost the second set 2-6. When Van went down 4-1



Helen Van, a tennis player for San Jose State University who started playing tennis at 8 years old and started competing at 10 years old,

says her favorite aspect of tennis is "the competition and competitiveness" of the sport.

in the third and deciding set she didn't freeze.

"Come on Helen," she said to herself. "Let's go."

Van swung harder and hit the ball to the left and to the right as if she was trying to push Navarro off the court. She used her groundstrokes (forehand and backhand) like a fighter uses the jab to wear down her opponent.

"She hits the ball really deep in the court so when her opponent returns the ball, it comes back shorter and she can go in and win the point," said Anna Nordell, Van's doubles partner.

At one point in Van's come-

back, she smacked a shot down the left sideline which caught Navarro off balance and made her fall as she returned it weakly over the net. Van rushed in and hit a jumping forehand to win the point. She came back to win three straight games. Although she went on to lose the match, those are the kinds of games she lives for.

"At close matches that's where all the anxiety is and that's when I enjoy playing," Van said.

Van's drive to win played off in a match against Lilian Ore of California State University Northridge on March 20. Van lost

the first set 4-6, but came back in "tears" to win the final sets 6-4, 6-4, Nguyen said.

Evoking the characteristics of a team leader, which Nguyen believes she has the potential to become, she is able to use her own competitive intensity to fuel her teammates.

After the team lost 5-4 to Wichita State University on March 22, she was upset. She won both her singles match and her doubles match convincingly, but she felt that the team should have beaten its opponent.

"She didn't talk to anyone on the team," Nguyen said. "Her

teammates would ask me 'What's wrong with Helen?' And I would tell them this is how she feels: She thinks that you guys aren't giving your 100 percent. The next day, they came out and the intensity just totally went up and we beat Santa Clara University bad."

Van demonstrates the same intensity in her doubles matches. She has earned a 13-6 record playing in the No. 2 and No. 3 positions this year.

"Whenever we win a point we are doing high-fives. We tell each other to focus on the game and keep concentration. Her reaction

if I miss a shot is that she motivates me, cheers me up. It's not like 'Ah, why did you do that.' It's like 'Come on, next point,' " Nordell said.

In the beginning, it was Van's father who pushed her to succeed on the tennis court. When she was 8 years old, her father beckoned her onto the tennis court and sat her in front of the television to watch professional matches. Back then, she admitted, there were times when she wasn't as motivated to play tennis.

"Later on I learned to like playing tennis," she said. "I finally found out why I liked tennis and it was because of the competition."

Although Van attributes much of her success to her father's influence, she does not want to map out a course for her children to follow.

"I believe in letting your kids do what they want to do because they'll be more successful if they're happy with what they are doing. I don't think pushing your kids is a good thing," Van said.

Like all successful individuals are able to do, Van has found something within herself that helps fuel her competitive drive.

"I doubt myself sometimes," Van said. "I think me thinking that way is better than me thinking that I'm a great player, because then I have a set goal in my mind — to play better than I'm playing now."

Van would like to finish her career at SJSU with the best record possible.

She is currently working towards a degree in management of information systems and she would like to go to graduate school after that.

But Van, the intense on-court competitor and MIS major, is not all business. She cracks a smile here and there and shares laughs with her teammates.

On the weekends, she likes to watch movies or go dancing occasionally.

Sometimes before a game she pumps the music of "TLC" and "112" through her headphones, melancholic influences which are evidently lost the moment her match begins.

"Ay!"

## Crosstown rivalry ends with Spartans splitting twin bill

By Rhoda Daclison  
Staff Writer

The sun wasn't shining on the Spartans' softball team early Tuesday afternoon when it lost to the University of Santa Clara Broncos in the first game of a double header by a final score of 8-2.

A ray of hope broke through in the second game which the Spartans won 8-4.

San Jose State University's head coach Connie Minor said although there were a number of elements that caused their loss in the first game, the most dominant was pitching.

"We didn't make adjustments when it came to pitching," Minor said.

The Spartans starting pitcher was Asia Easley who holds a record of 3-10.

Easley gave up five runs before she was replaced in the 7th

inning by seasoned pitcher, Sabrina Quintero.

Following a slow start, Quintero struck out two straight batters, Broncos Kristie Harrington and Joyca Caverly.

Spartan center fielder Jennifer Tyler also said pitching was the main problem for the team.

"The pitching really threw us off," Tyler said. "I think we needed to be more patient with the pitchers."

By the 5th inning, and with a score of 5-2, the Spartans were fighting an uphill battle.

Defensively, the Spartans were more effective than their pitching. Second baseman Devyn Whitcanack and catcher Maya Garcia made the most of a wild pitch by turning a double play and ending the Broncos steady streak of hits.

In the top of the 6th inning, outfielder Michelle Morga dove to catch a ball driven down the mid-

dle that could have increased the Broncos score by two runs.

But the Spartans were unable to avoid making errors.

In the top of the 7th inning, a bad throw by Spartans' Lindsey Lewis turned a Bronco bunt into a double.

On offense, the Spartans were hit and miss. Whitcanack scored home on a wild pitch in the fifth inning and Kirsten Foster's RBI drove in SJSU's first run.

The team, riddled with injuries, seemed undermanned in the first game.

"It's been such a frustrating season," Minor said. "We lost four starters to injuries and three of them were pitchers."

Minor said the team needs to learn how to enjoy the game more.

"We need to focus on having a little bit more fun for the rest of the season," she said. "We have about 16 games left to play."



San Jose State University's Rebecca Baldridge gets tagged out at home by Santa Clara catcher Kim Maynard in the top of the third inning Tuesday

during the Spartan's 8-2 loss in the first game of a doubleheader. The Spartans won the second game 8-4.

Sean Penello/Spartan Daily



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## Shopping online curbs stress

By Igor Bilis  
Staff Writer

According to Jupiter Communications, a research firm, consumers spent an estimated \$3.14 billion online in November and December, compared to \$1.1 billion during the same period in 1977. A study by InfoBeads, another research company, concluded 32 million American adults used the Internet to gather information about products and services in December, while 8.2 million actually made purchases online. Shopping online can save a lot of time from driving, cursing and waiting in line. Here are some online shopping sites as well as tips to alleviate your stress.

■ Spiegel ([www.spiegel.com](http://www.spiegel.com)) is a nicely designed site that is bright and easy to navigate. It has everything from home furnishings and accessories to designer fashions, as well as men's and women's apparel and home electronics.

■ Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)), lets browsers buy concert or sporting event tickets online, which has its advantages. Being able to search for events before tickets go on sale, finding out when they do go on sale, gathering information about the event and getting directions to the venue are all perks. No, you can't get Star Wars tickets in advance here.

■ BookStacks ([www.books.com](http://www.books.com)) is a delightfully browsable, searchable and secure site of many book titles — most are discounted by 15 to 30 percent. Interesting features include a library of e-books, from Shakespeare to Wilde and daily RealAudio that can be downloaded to listen to literary-world news.

■ ShopNow ([www.shopnow.com](http://www.shopnow.com)) has more than 27,000 stores online. It could possibly be the mother of all malls. The site is divided into 14 categories to keep shoppers from getting lost. In the entertainment category, there are compact discs, videos, studios, etc. In the dogs, cats and kids section there are children books, games, animal specialties and more.

■ Acses ([www.acses.com](http://www.acses.com)) is a leading book comparison shopping site, which compares prices from almost all online bookstores. It can track the lowest prices on book titles sold over the Internet. Visitors can simply choose any compact discs, video or DVD and the Internet software robot automatically visits all major Internet stores simultaneously to retrieve the current prices for the specific item from each store.

Here are some tips for shopping online:



■ Only make purchases from secure servers. Secure servers encode all the information they send to the user's web browser such as Netscape. Shopping at secure sites is safer than shopping in a store. When the user is about to make a purchase online, the web browser will display a closed (locked) lock picture at the bottom of its window when a site is secure.

■ Never e-mail a credit card number to anyone. E-mail is not secure and can be intercepted and read by anyone on its trip from your computer. Most Web stores will give you a phone option if the company doesn't have a secure server.

■ If you think you have been defrauded or think someone is trying to take advantage of you, use the forms at the National Fraud Information Center ([www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org)) to report fraud or request information online.

## Pot: Four arrests

Continued from page 1

In addition to citations, there were four arrests. One in Joe West, one in Hoover Hall and two from Washburn hall.

Resident adviser at Spartan Village Mike Kenniston said he must send all marijuana cases to the resident directors.

"If I see them (students smoking pot) I have to write them up — it's my job as a resident adviser," Kenniston said.

Kenniston also said he knows of students who smoke pot in their rooms but has never seen them doing it and can't do anything until he sees them.

Once a resident is caught for smoking pot, their punishment varies depending on how the resident directors want to pursue it.

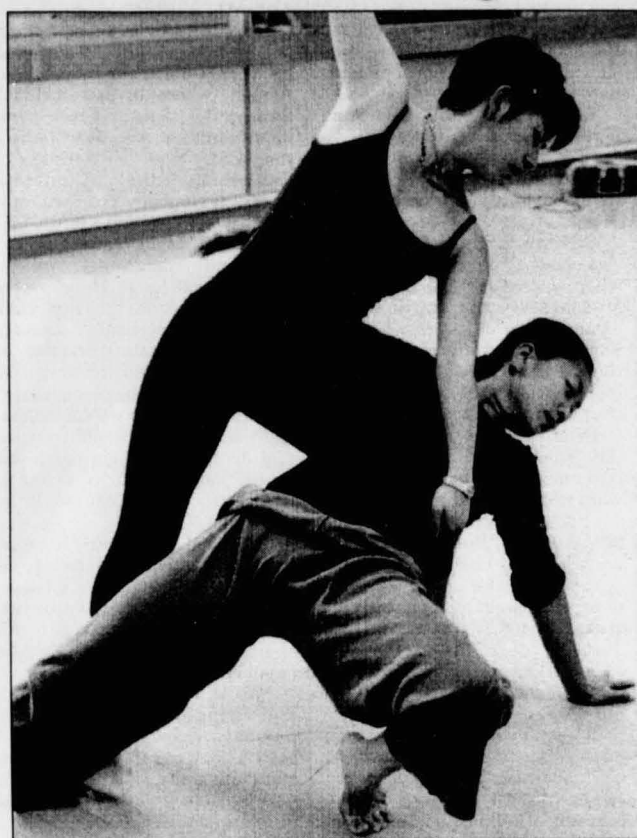
Sometimes a resident is sent to the Preventative Education Program on campus. The PEP center is an education resource

center on campus that provides information on drugs, alcohol and other related issues.

According to Margaret Tam, coordinator of the PEP center, some students from the residence halls are sent there if they break the drug and alcohol rules in the dorms.

"What they do here depends on the incident. It can be anything from writing a paper to making a poster," Tam said.

## You better not let go



Jenni Lee (top), San Jose State University dance student, rehearses with Aimee Lam for their final performance for their Choreography II class Tuesday. They will perform the dance at 7 p.m. on May 14th and 15th in Spartan Complex room 219.

Sarah Orr/  
Spartan Daily

## Theft: Not guilty pleas

Continued from page 1

to authorities.

All five plead not guilty at their arraignments.

All but Sobalvarro have been referred to a public defender, according to a deputy court clerk of Superior Court San Jose Facility.

Sgt. John Hernandez of UPD said Venegas told the students to come to the bookstore and he'd give them a discount.

So far, about \$900 worth of books, pens and clothing have been returned after being recovered from the students charged with the possession, said Hernandez.

Officer Robert Womak, the arresting officer, said Venegas was originally cited for a misdemeanor because at that time only about \$400 of merchandise was recovered. Since then, the

value of merchandise recovered has increased to approximately \$900, which is a felony amount, he said.

"We are further looking into the case for other people involved or (other) items taken," said Hernandez.

Jamie Harmon, deputy district attorney of Santa Clara County, said conspiracy charges will not be filed against Sobalvarro.

Venegas will be charged with a misdemeanor, in part because the value of the theft is under \$1,500 and he has no prior record, Harmon said.

"We asked for felony charges but they gave us only misdemeanor charges," Hernandez said.

Venegas was caught and detained by Cory Roebuck and Jason Pizzaro, security staff

with the Loss Prevention Department for the Spartan Bookstore.

Roebuck said they were tipped off by a San Jose State University student that Venegas was giving away and discounting merchandise, mostly books and clothing.

Venegas was then watched on the bookstore's surveillance camera. Allegedly, Venegas' friends would wait in line to be rung up by him only, he said.

Roebuck said they could see exactly what was rung up, so it was easy to see what was being charged, and what was not charged.

"We could see what's printed on the receipt as it's printing," Roebuck said.

Everybody has fully cooperated, said both Roebuck and Hernandez.

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## Students the target of new legislation

Proposed bill would increase student reps on CSU Board

By Rhoda Daclison  
Staff Writer

Waiting in the wings of the California Assembly is a bill that would increase the number of student representatives on the California State University Board of Trustees from one to two.

Assemblywoman Gloria Romero authored the proposed bill and said additional student representation is needed for the growing number of students.

"One student representative to keep in touch with more than 350,000 students in the CSU system is not enough," she said.

Romero said she expects the CSU system to grow 8 percent by the year 2010, bringing the total amount of students to 440,000.

According to Ken Swisher, CSU public affairs director, the Board of Trustees is responsible for, among other things, hiring the chancellor and implementing policies that affect the system.

"The trustees meet to set guidelines that allow autonomy at the university level," he said. "Universities differ everywhere. San Jose State and San Diego State have different curriculum formats than those of the Cal Polys (San Luis Obispo and Pomona)."

Presently, the board has 24 voting members including one faculty member, one student member and five CSU alumni. Each of them, including the student member, are appointed for two-year terms.

Swisher said the board has nine different subcommittees addressing different goals.

"Subcommittees include finance, campus relations and educational policy, Swisher said. "Each member is appointed to a subcommittee by the chair of the board, including the student representative. All the members have the same responsibilities."

Swisher said the student member of the board is Eric Mitchell from San Diego State University.

The student trustee is chosen from candidates sent by the California State Student Association to be interviewed by the governor, Swisher said.

In addition to increasing student representation, the bill would also require the term of one student member to begin in an even-numbered year and the term of the other member start in an odd-numbered year.

"The overlap is to ensure that

the burden of responsibility does not weigh heavily on the new member," Romero said.

Romero also said the "staggered terms" would allow student representation on different committees and would be consistent in addressing the students of the CSU system.

The board elected its first student trustee in 1976, 16 years after the board's establishment.

Willie Guerrero, Romero's press secretary, said since the students represent the largest group, they should have the most representation, but change in the board is a gradual process.

"It's a big thing to change the Board of Trustees," Guerrero said. "It's an institution that has been here for a long time."

Guerrero said they have had minimal opposition to the bill.

"The CSU administration has had questions about the bill, but we hope to smooth things over soon," he said.

Guerrero said the CSU is worried about a "slippery slope" affect where increasing the number of students on the board would mean having to increase the faculty representation. Currently, the board has one faculty member representing 40,000 faculty and staff in the CSU system.

Peter Lee, vice president of faculty affairs for SJSU, said it is important for students to have a voice in issues that affect them.

"I do not know much about the bill," he said. "But in principle, I am always in favor of fair representation on the part of the student. Although, adding another student member may not be productive."

Tina Croswell, an economics major, is also skeptical about the bill.

"I don't see how effective adding one more person would be," she said. "Having only two representatives to figure out the concerns of 350,000 students does not seem plausible."

Associated Students from numerous CSU campuses, including San Francisco, San Diego and Sacramento are in full support of Romero's bill.

Swisher said the CSU has not yet taken a stand on the bill.

"We are still working with the authors to re-word the bill," he said, but did not elaborate further.

Swisher said the bill is not expected to be presented to the assembly until at least April 15.

Romero said she is convinced the bill has a good chance to pass due to the amount of student support it has generated.

"My whole motto is, if it's for the students, it should be by the students," she said, referring to the board.

CSU, SJSU offices would become voter registration sign-up places

By Leah Bower  
Staff Editor

The office of admissions and records at San Jose State University and other California State University campus offices, will be designated voter registration agencies if California Assembly Bill 164 passes.

Introduced by assemblywoman Gloria Romero and co-authored by assemblywoman Elaine Alquist, whose district includes Sunnyvale, Santa Clara and Mountain View, AB 164 will affect the CSU, the University of California, the California Maritime Academy and community colleges.

The bill would require university and community college admission offices to include voter registration forms in materials distributed to students — a duty Marilyn Radisch, director of records and registrations at SJSU, thinks can be managed.

"I think the impact (on admissions and records) would be minimal if the state supplied the forms," Radisch said. "If we had to supply the forms, that would be an impact."

Increased accessibility to registration materials will benefit college students by making it easier to participate in government, according to Alquist. Alquist said she didn't know if forms would be supplied.

"We will see college students registering to vote in greater numbers than before," Alquist said. "I don't think it is asking the state university system to much."

A possible increase in costs and pressure on admissions departments would be worthwhile, according to Alquist, if more college students get registered to vote.

According to the legislation, the California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies for some costs mandated by the state, as long as they don't exceed \$1 million statewide.

"Colleges would figure out how much this would cost them and request reimbursement," Alquist said.

Mike Hamilton, a junior in mechanical engineering who said he rarely votes, doesn't think including voter registration information in admissions packets will encourage students to vote.

"I think people have already determined if they are going to vote or not," Hamilton said.

Although AB 164 would require CSU schools to implement the new policies, UC schools would only be requested to change.

"The UC system has greater autonomy than the state system," Alquist said. "Because of that, they don't have to follow all the same rules the state system does."

A second voter-related bill, AB 1094, introduced by assemblyman Robert Hertzberg, would allow voters — including students — to register the same day they vote.

Hertzberg, whose district includes Van Nuys, said the bill would make voting easier for students who attended school in a different area than their permanent residence.

"You might want to re-register to vote when you go home for the holidays," Hertzberg said. "College students are always busy."

Graduate student Joel Mefford, a civil engineering major, said he favors making voting more convenient, even though he is concerned same-day voting could cause more accusation of fraud.

"There have been a few times I've moved and I've registered on the last day," Mefford said. "I think it (same day voter registration) could be useful."

AB 1094, which is sponsored by Rock the Vote, allows people who are qualified to vote to register on election day and cast a provisional ballot in the election. County election officials would compile a list of voters who registered on election day and review the names within 30 days to cancel duplicates.

Rock the Vote is a political action group that is dedicated to protecting freedom of expression and helping young people make a change in politics.

Both bills are currently being reviewed by committees, pursuant to being voted on and passed to Governor Gray Davis for approval.

"I'd like to see it (AB 164) pass by June," Alquist said. "It is possible if it doesn't get held up."

## Victim: Nguyen stable

Continued from page 1

Other secondary problems burn victims might have to deal with are pain and scarring, according to Latta.

During the explosion, all six individuals in the lab may have inhaled gaseous fumes.

"Lung damage can result if an individual inhales a significant amount of the toxic fumes," said David West, a SJSU nursing student.

Nguyen said she was the closest of the six people in the room to the explosion but she was not the cause of it.

Allegedly, the students were mixing nitric acid in a one gallon glass container, according to Capt. Rob Piper, San Jose Fire Department public information officer.

According to Nguyen, she was at the sink washing a glass container when the explosion took place.

"When I heard the explosion, I turned around and the acid and glass got on me," Nguyen said.

Nguyen said she may be in the hospital for two weeks because she has serious burns to her forehead and arms.

Nguyen said she is experiencing pain, itching and occasional swelling.

Nguyen said the doctors have her exercising her forehead and arm to stretch the injured areas and to prevent the skin from contracting while it heals.

The cause of the explosion is still under investigation and the names of the students who were in the basement lab of Duncan Hall when the incident occurred are not being released at this time, said University Police Department Sgt. John Hernandez.

At this time, chemistry professor Paul Wagenknecht, who was supervising the five chemistry students, has not made an official statement to the press because of an ongoing investigation.

Since the explosion seven days ago, the lab has remained closed due to clean up.

Chandra Gowda, a SJSU hazard material specialist, said he and specialist Paul Wood conducted the second phase clean up last week but the lab still needs two more phases of cleaning.

Second phase clean up includes the removal of all leftover debris and solvents that were splattered on the counters and walls.

The clean up is currently in the third phase which includes mopping the lab and the fourth phase is waxing the lab floor.

## Practice: Quake drill

Continued from page 1

each floor was evacuated. In Sweeney Hall there were two emergency team members per floor when the alarm sounded at 10:35 a.m. After the wing is completely evacuated team members report to their building coordinator.

Each building has a senior building coordinator — for Sweeney Hall it is Mike Gallagher. He stood outside the building waiting for team members to check in. Gallagher held, on a clipboard was a list of all faculty and staff members that could possibly be inside the building.

Gallagher, an office manager in the College of Education Dean's office, is in his second year as a coordinator.

After all emergency team members report to Gallagher he turns in his evaluation sheet to the command center.

The command center is located on Seventh Street between the Clark Library and the University Room. Staley stood watch at the command center making sure everything went according to plan.

"Last year some were not real sure it was a drill, but everything usually goes smoothly," Gallagher

said. Everything almost went smoothly this year with the exception of two faculty members who did not want to leave their offices in Sweeney Hall.

Those who are in violation will be noted and referred to academic affairs, Staley said.

It is procedure for those who refuse to cooperate with the evacuation to be referred to either academic affairs or the University Police Department Staley said.

"We don't set out to inconvenience, we set out to master the skills to save human lives," Staley said.

Music major Tom Loreda said it was an inconvenience but was an understandable one.

Loreda said he was interrupted during his trombone lessons, which happens to be his only class.

"I only have one class and the process took about a half hour, but it is something we need to do," Loreda said.

Vu Nguyen was with friend Carlos Rodriguez studying in the library when he was startled by the alarms.

"We just followed the crowd and went to look for another place to study," Nguyen said.

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## Pot club wants jury trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Lawyers for a medical marijuana club told a federal appeals court Tuesday the club shouldn't have been closed without a jury trial at which patients could show their need for the drug.

The Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative was shut down by a federal judge last October in a suit by the Clinton administration, which said any distribution of marijuana violated federal law, despite California's 1996 medical marijuana initiative.

In arguments before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the club said the closure violated the rights of its 2,000 patient-members and failed to recognize the legal effect of the city of Oakland's involvement in the club's operations.

The city responded to U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer's original injunction by declaring last August that marijuana club officials were acting as city officers, invoking a federal law that protects state and local officers from liability while enforcing drug laws. But Breyer said the club was violating the drug law, not enforcing it.

Annette Carnegie, a lawyer for the club, attacked Breyer's closure order on procedural grounds.

Her argument, if accepted, would offer a potential defense to any marijuana club targeted by the government. The Clinton administration sued six Northern California clubs in 1997, saying the absolute federal ban on marijuana distribution overrode the state's attempt in Proposition 215 to legalize medical use of the drug.

## Banging the sacred drum



(Above) Eugene Newman (left) and John Gamiochipi sing traditional Native American songs as they beat on a drum Tuesday at the Student Union Amphitheater.

(Right) San Jose State University students watch performers sing traditional Native American songs as they beat a drum together Tuesday.

Photos by Dai Sugano/Spartan Daily

## Teen who runs over love rival gets 10 to 20

LYONS, N.Y. (AP) — A teenager who drove her car over a romantic rival after they had tussled all summer for the affections of a young man was sentenced Tuesday to 10 to 20 years in prison.

Polly Smith apologized to the parents of the 18-year-old victim, Amanda Leoni, but insisted she never

meant to kill her.

"I'd give anything to bring back Amanda," she said, choking back tears.

Smith, 18, was acquitted of murder in February but convicted of manslaughter. She faced up to 25 years in prison.

Smith knocked down Leoni on a street last August with her car. She

then hit the brake, turned the steering wheel and drove over her, three teen witnesses testified.

The jury apparently decided Smith intended to cause serious physical injury, not kill.

The victim's father, James Leoni, appealed to the judge to impose the maximum sentence to send

a message, especially to the young, "that violence is not a way to solve a problem."

The circumstances of Leoni's death bore haunting similarities to another lethal love affair involving her 15 months earlier.

In May 1997, her boyfriend, Christopher Heise, 18, died of a knife wound to the heart during a

fight with a 16-year-old high school buddy who was courting her.

Deciding Gavin Dinneen acted in fearful self-defense, a jury acquitted him of criminally negligent homicide.

Smith had been dating Justin Smith, 20, on and off for over a year when Leoni, returning home from her first year in college, began

seeing him as well. Smith tried to scare her off, allegedly kicking and punching her on one occasion, then forced a showdown the night of Aug. 24.

The women had an argument during which Justin Smith told Leoni he was finished with her. As Leoni walked away, Smith hit the accelerator and struck her.



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